

KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION

Meeting with Knox County Municipalities

Thursday - June 4, 2009 - 10:00 a.m.

A meeting of the Knox County Commission with the Knox County municipalities was held on Thursday, June 4, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the county courthouse, 62 Union Street, Rockland, Maine. Administrative Assistant Candice Richards was present to record the minutes of the meeting.

Commission members present were: Anne Beebe-Center, Commissioner District #1, Richard L. Parent, Jr., Commissioner District #2, and Roger A. Moody, Commissioner District #3. County staff present included: County Administrator Andrew Hart, Administrative Assistant Candice Richards, Chief Deputy Ernie McIntosh, Sheriff Donna Dennison, Finance Director Kathy Robinson, Register of Probate Elaine Hallett, Registrar of Deeds Lisa Simmons, Airport Manager Jeff Northgraves (also as a South Thomaston Selectman), and EMA Director Ray Sisk (also as a Hope Selectman).

Other people present: Kim Lincoln from the *Herald Gazette*; Robert Peabody, Jr., Town Manager of Rockport; Marjorie Stratton, Town Manager of Vinalhaven; Elmer Savage, Union Selectman; Pennie Alley, South Thomaston Selectman; Dorothy Meriwether, South Thomaston Selectman; Rosemary Kulow, City Manager of Rockland; William Chapman, Rockport Selectman; John Falla, Town Manager of St. George; Tim Polky, Assistant Town Manger and Fire Chief of St. George; and Daniel Staples, Cushing Selectman.

Initial Meeting with Knox County Municipalities – Agenda Thursday – June 4, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.	
I.	Purpose of the Meeting Begin a dialogue with Knox County and Knox Municipalities to identify strategies for saving costs and improving service delivery.
II.	Efforts that are in place within Knox County and surrounding municipalities/counties
III.	Possible Areas for common sourcing/group purchasing/combined management <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Works• Ambulance Services• Animal Control• Payroll• Solid Waste disposal• Code Enforcement• Public Safety• Assessing• Technology• Training (safety, technology)• Economic Development• Bids for Liquid Magnesium Chloride, Sand, and Calcium flakes, etc. for winter roads
IV.	<u>Action List</u> Items to be researched or followed up for the next meeting
V.	Next Meeting Date and Place

I. Meeting Called to Order
Commission Chair Anne Beebe-Center called the June 4, 2009 meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She thanked everybody for coming. This meeting is the first in a series of conversations to work together to cut costs, figure out efficiencies, and make some changes. She asked everyone to introduce themselves.

II. Efforts that are in place within Knox County and surrounding municipalities/counties

County Administrator Andrew Hart explained that he had a partial list of things already being worked on in Knox County, either the towns working with each other, or working with the County. The list was not a complete list and was just to help get the discussion going.

Bids
Done by the County:
Road Salt and Liquid Calcium Chloride. Participating towns include many Knox municipalities as well as three towns outside of Knox. Also looking into Liquid Magnesium Chloride.
Done by the City of Rockland:
Winter Sand (County may be taking this over.)

Heating Oil. Done in conjunction with the Midcoast School of Technology. Around six municipalities are currently participating. (County may be taking this over.)

Animal Control

Union, Appleton and Hope have an inter-local agreement. A husband and wife are doing Animal Control for the three towns.

Ambulance Service

Union does this for Washington, Appleton and Hope. Several communities have mentioned wanting a more centralized ambulance service.

Solid Waste

Mid-Coast Solid Waste, which is Camden, Rockport, Lincolnville and Hope
Tri-County, which includes Union, Appleton, Washington, Somerville, Liberty and Palermo
Lincoln County does solid waste, which will be discussed when the Knox Commission meets with the Lincoln Commission on June 8th to see if it is a model that can work in Knox.

E-9-1-1

The Knox Regional Communications Center provides dispatch services for all of Knox County and Lincolnville. There have been a few other towns looking into leaving their county's dispatch center to use the KRCC, but none have made the switch yet.

Emergency Management Agency

The County EMA director, Ray Sisk, works with the municipal EMA directors in each town. He also helps coordinate disaster relief and applies for grants that benefit the entire county.

Mid-Coast Municipal Association

It used to be called the Municipal Town/City Managers Association. County Administrator Andrew Hart is still serving as the president of the association even though he is no longer a town manager. The Association now includes selectmen and county officials to try to get more of a discussion between municipalities, and with the County as well.

III. Possible Areas for common sourcing/group purchasing/combined management

Commissioner Beebe-Center asked if there were any other ways in which municipalities work together that does not involve the County.

SOLID WASTE

Mr. Northgraves stated that South Thomaston, Owls Head and Thomaston also do solid waste together. He stated the three towns are currently going through a bidding process for the transportation portion of the solid waste. He stated that he was not eager for the County to take over their solid waste operation, but thought that maybe if more towns participated in a bid for transportation, it would save everyone money. The County may be able to help coordinate that.

Commissioner Moody commented that there are layers of mutual aid agreements for fire departments. There are also mutual aid agreements between police departments and the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Beebe-Center asked if there was something that the County could help with, in regards to solid waste, that might make a difference to the towns. She suggested that storage or transportation might be topics to discuss.

Ms. Meriwether stated that she was curious about why Mr. Northgraves did not think that the County should take over all bids.

Mr. Northgraves replied that he believed that the towns would balk at the idea. He stated that this was a reason for caution for a lot of these topics. He stated that he believed that ambulances should be centralized and that the County was probably the place to do that, but that it may not happen in the next five years because the taxpayers do not see the financial benefit to give up their local ambulance. He added that the same attitude spilled over into the solid waste issue. Having three towns working together is one thing, but once it is all handled by the County, towns will think that they are not in control and not making the decisions. He stated that while he personally felt that centralization is critical for some of these services, he did not think towns are ready for it. They would need to see the financial benefit.

Mr. Peabody stated that there are other issues besides turf wars. He stated that Rockport actually owns the facility with an operating quarry and have to maintain leachate control forever. He stated

that Rockland has the same issue. He stated that there is not only “MSW” (Mid-Coast Solid Waste), which has a transportation component to it, but there is also “C, D, and D” (construction, demolition, and debris). He stated that a few years ago, there was an effort to do a County-wide “C, D, and D”. There are some opportunities with the transportation aspect of “MSW” to operate it County-wide. He stated that he would like to see an active conversation on “C, D, and D”.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Mr. Peabody stated that what should be discussed was animal control. Union, Hope and Appleton have an agreement, but the other towns are required by statute to have an animal control officer. It is a pain for towns to individually maintain. It lends itself well to centralization. Rockport budgets about \$6,000 for animal control. He added that General Assistance should also be on the list, read by Administrator Hart, of efforts already taking place within the County. He thought that maybe this could also be centralized.

SOLID WASTE

Mr. Northgraves thinks that the time is right for centralizing the “MSW” Trucking and “C, D and D”. There may not be a cost to get rid of the recycling, but there is a cost to transport it. He added that it may be cheaper to look at using railway instead of trucking. South Thomaston is already looking at this and is probably ready to be part of a County-wide effort.

Mr. Peabody stated that he and Jim Guerra (Manager of Mid-Coast Solid Waste) had worked on a framework on how “C, D, and D” might work and would be willing to share the organizational structure information with the County.

Mr. Savage stated that he was one of the Union representatives on the Tri-County board. He stated that the current manager manages both Tri-County and Mid-Coast, which has created some efficiencies. He stated that regionalization and consolidation can save some money, but that he was not sure that the County is the mechanism for that to take place. Some towns involved are not even in Knox County and maybe the lines should not be blurred. The two boards are working well and making changes now might be like trying to reinvent the wheel. The two organizations may be in the position to draw in other towns to become part of an already established group and regionalization could take place that way. He stated that he was not sure that this is something that County government has to jump into.

Mr. Peabody stated that Mr. Savage had made a good point. Lincolnville is involved with Rockport’s operation. He added that when he was working on the organizational framework, he had also been in discussions with Waldoboro at the time. He stated that what he was suggesting was that Knox could be a facilitator, where the groups could get together and meet.

Commission Anne Beebe-Center stated that she wanted to make sure it was clear that the County is not looking for things to take over. The County is looking for ways to partner with the towns and have meaningful conversation. If the towns are only looking for the County’s help in dealing with transportation, that is fine. She stated that the meeting was just to have a conversation to see what needs the towns have.

Mr. Savage commented that this needed to be well communicated because the impression is out there that the County wants to take over the towns.

Mr. Chapman stated that if the towns and the County work together on some things, like using the railroad for transportation, there might actually be a savings.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Kulow stated that with all of the work currently being done with economic development in the area, it could be of great benefit to have the County be involved in that and working with the towns, whether providing a person, a department, or merely coordinating.

Commissioner Beebe-Center stated that the County is well positioned to help but that the County would not be running the show, but rather helping to facilitate. The County is just beginning to take a look at possibilities and what the costs might be to have a County coordinator for that. She added that this discussion could be considered as an action item for this meeting.

Commissioner Moody commented that the Lincoln County Commissioners related some frustration with their economic development affiliations. He stated that it seemed like Lincoln and Knox had common interests. He stated that there may be some major changes forming, and that sometimes when these things happen, we can turn the outcome to our best advantage.

Commissioner Beebe-Center stated that she is on the board of KWRED, along with Ms. Kulow, and that group is looking at major generators of Belfast, Camden and Rockland. The effort may include Lincoln, Knox and Waldo as an economic development group. These counties have some similarities in terms of landscape and industry.

Mr. Peabody asked how the Commissioner pictured the creation of an economic development office happening.

Commission Anne Beebe-Center replied that things were not to that point yet. It has just been proposed that instead of affiliating with a 501(c)(3) or going for 501(c)(3) status for KWRED or an existing organization, it might make sense if it was the county, but might not.

Mr. Peabody commented that although Rockport has a Community Development Director/Planner, there is no one whose primary focus is economic development in Rockport. He stated that this conversation needed to continue because there is an advantage to having someone in Knox County with that specific focus on economic development.

AMBULANCE/EMERGENCY SERVICES

Commissioner Parent commented that Mr. Northgraves had mentioned shared ambulance service. He stated that when he had run for office, St. George had suggested to him that this was something that they would welcome because of their plight in trying to find coverage. He wondered if there were other towns in similar situations who would be interested in exploring it, even if that is ten years away.

Mr. Northgraves stated that he agreed that it was a discussion that has to happen. The South Thomaston Selectmen had approached townspeople with this subject two years in a row but were shot down. Even though it made logical and financial sense, the emotional response from the town was “no”. He added that he would not even feel comfortable in taking part in that kind of discussion because the will of the South Thomaston voters was very clear on the subject. He stated that the reason why it was voted down was partially response time, but also that the people providing the ambulance services have been dedicated to doing that there for years and to them it might be considered a slap in the face. A committee had looked at all the options, including a great deal offered by Rockland, but the voters still shot it down.

Ms. Meriwether stated that she did not know that St. George had asked about the County possibly doing ambulance service. She stated that she believed that there are two main reasons towns may not want to participate in centralized ambulance services. The first is that towns have a negative perception of the County. It is assumed that the County will try to be in control. The second is that towns tend to just talk amongst themselves and not work with other towns.

Administrator Hart stated that since the subject had been brought up, he asked what the negative perception of the County is that the towns have. He stated that from his own experience, when he was a town manager he was not happy about the change in dispatch to go from the State Police to County dispatch and were not given a choice. He stated that it would be interesting to hear what problems the towns had with the County because he and the Commission both wanted to try to improve relationships with the towns. He added that the intent was not to take over, or to take away, what is being done. The County wants to assist or to help if possible. He stated that he knows that towns have their “home turf” and do not like sharing equipment, or do not want help from outside sources.

Ms. Kulow commented that the negative view of counties in Maine is state-wide. Towns think counties are unnecessary. She stated that she comes from a different background where county government is very strong and provides a lot of services. She stated that the negative perception of counties will only get better if counties and towns all work together to save money and provide better services. It will probably take several generations for the negative perception to change. In other states, all social services (General assistance), tax collecting, assessing, car registration, road maintenance, are done at county level in other states.

Mr. Staples commented that towns work together better now than they used to. There is now strong communication between town fire departments. There is a lot more mutual training and purchasing of equipment between towns. Friendship and Cushing work together on a lot of drills and training. There are some things that would be good for working with the county, especially because of the economy, but not all. Bigger is not always better and usually ends up with there being more rules and regulations.

Commissioner Moody stated that when he was in municipal government, one of his objections to the County was the amount of taxes paid to the County. It did not seem like the amount of services received from the County to the towns was proportionate with the amount of taxes paid. The County is doing a lot of things that are required by the State (Jails, Registry of Deeds, Probate, etc.). Until the State finds other ways to deliver those services, the taxes paid to the County cover the cost of those services. He stated that he did not think this would ever change because of the State Constitution.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ms. Kulow asked if the more rural towns are satisfied with their law enforcement and if there was a move towards towns having individual contracts with the Sheriff's Department to ensure better coverage.

Mr. Northgraves stated that this was the other issue that South Thomaston had. The Selectmen had tried to negotiate for their own Sheriff's deputy. The voters shot that idea down too, even though grant money was coming in that would have paid for it. The next year, the Selectmen took it upon themselves to contract, and paid \$500 extra, to have extra speed enforcement in town. The residents got very angry. There seems to be two groups in town. One wants to see more speed, drug, and law enforcement help in town, while the other does not seem to want law enforcement there at all.

Mr. Savage stated that he hears reports from citizens in Union that there is not enough enforcement. He stated that he was happy with the coverage.

Mr. Polky stated that at times the law enforcement coverage does not seem adequate. The Sheriff has come and spoken to them, but the citizens are expecting more than what is possible.

Mr. Falla commented that he agrees that the coverage is accurate, but that the problem can be that the same deputy may be covering more than one town. If there are 30 miles between two calls that need responders, the coverage will seem inadequate. The coverage is great as long as it is there when the citizens need it.

Ms. Stratton commented that Vinalhaven contracts with the County for a Sheriff's deputy for 40 hours per week. Other deputies come to the island to cover when the assigned deputy is not working. She added that they are happy with the service.

Commission Anne Beebe-Center commented that North Haven has a similar contract.

Mr. Peabody stated that as the County's second largest taxpayer, Rockport has its own police department. He stated that his citizens feel that they do not get their money's worth for police coverage. He stated that if he looked at not having their own police department and looked at what the State Police or the Sheriff's Department could offer, it is next to nothing, and yet Rockport pays almost a million dollars each year in taxes. It leads to the feeling that Rockport is subsidizing the rural areas. He stated that the problem he has had with county government in the past is inertia. The County is just there, and the tax check has to be sent by a certain date. He stated that he was heartened to see current Commission and to see Administrator Hart being involved. It is a positive step forward. He suggested that maybe this group could meet every other month to talk issues over. He stated that he would like the County to continue to be more proactive. He added that he agreed that it was a good idea to "cherry pick" services for the County to be involved in because some things just make more sense to be regionalized, while others definitely do not. He stated that too often municipalities do not get credit for the little things that they are already doing for each other. Regionalization is not always the most cost effective answer.

Mr. Staples suggested that maybe some of the future meetings could be held at different times of day.

Chief Deputy McIntosh stated that he just wanted respond to earlier stated concerns of coverage by saying that any time any town asks for assistance, the Sheriff's Department goes there. The Sheriff's Department generally stays out of the other department's area unless they need or want the help.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Northgraves commented that there was an effort in some of the northern counties to take over the public works functions. He asked if that was still going on.

Administrator Hart commented that the jail consolidation may have put an end to that.

Mr. Sisk commented that the County has very capable public works departments in some of the towns. One of the things that the County does not have is road consistency in planning for the roads or for engineering, particularly with smaller towns. He stated that it might be worth having a County-level road engineer person to help the towns in planning and to supervise the process so that this aspect of public works is more consistent throughout the County.

Commissioner Parent commented that when he was a selectman in Warren, they hired a retired Department of Transportation engineer to help design roads and give advice on maintaining them. He stated that he believes that Warren saved a lot of money on some big projects by getting the advice of this road engineer. He stated that Warren saved a lot on just the paving alone because of the advice received. It might save towns money to have a County-wide person to do that. The County could contract with someone to be specialized to Knox County.

Mr. Sisk commented that the price of asphalt has quadrupled in the past year and that it might be something the County could possibly help bid out for.

Ms. Kulow stated that in other areas, towns provide lists of capital so that towns can borrow from each other, or rent or share. A similar type of list may already exist in Emergency Management, but if all of the communities in Knox County can provide these lists, then maybe the towns could offer to share or rent equipment so that each town does not have to buy its own equipment.

Commissioner Parent stated that one thing that needs to be considered is that if a piece of equipment is loaned out, an operator needs to go with that equipment because you can no just let anybody use it. It has to be run by someone qualified to operate it.

Mr. Sisk stated that road construction and repair in some towns has not always been done the way it should have been. Often a “repair” job causes more work and expense for the town later because it does not hold up over time.

Commissioner Beebe-Center asked if the County has a list.

Mr. Sisk stated that the EMA office has a list from towns that are actively participating, but some towns have not provided that information.

SAFETY TRAINING

Commissioner Beebe-Center stated that Commissioner Moody had previously mentioned training that all towns are required to do.

Commissioner Moody asked if it would help save time and expense if the County provided a safety officer to do training, such as safety training, video terminal training, sexual harassment training, etc.

Ms. Stratton stated that it would be helpful to her. She stated that North Haven has come to Vinalhaven to participate in training earlier in the year, but it sometimes hard to get training set up and to get anyone to come to it.

Ms. Alley stated that it would be duplication. EMS and Fire departments are already doing this by training with each other and sharing expenses. It can reach a point where you have too many people trying to get involved at the same time. Logistics have to be kept in mind.

Ms. Kulow commented that the Maine Municipal Association already provides a lot of training.

Mr. Chapman suggested that instead, maybe the County could act as a host for some of the training so that some municipal employees will not have to travel so far.

Mr. Sisk stated that it may not be totally realistic or efficient to do training as a whole County, but some training may be good to try to do centrally with the County acting as a facilitator.

County Administrator Andrew Hart commented that it would be good to try to host some training at County facilities. The trick is to make sure enough people are willing to come to make having the training a realistic possibility. He added that the County is looking at having a training facility as part of the space needs assessment. Right now the County does not have a lot of meeting space.

IT SERVICES

Commissioner Moody stated that he did not know if any towns needed help with Information Technology equipment/maintenance. He stated that towns probably have contractors but their specialization is usually business oriented rather than government oriented. The County has a very

good IT supervisor, Jeff Lake, who, with an IT assistant, handles the troubleshooting, upgrades, maintenance, purchasing, etc. He asked if this was a need that the towns had or did everyone think it was better to leave that to the private sector.

Commissioner Beebe-Center asked Commissioner Moody if he was just thinking of troubleshooting and not the dedicated systems owned by the towns or network upgrades.

Commissioner Moody replied that he was thinking in regards to hardware, software, and servers etc. that could require a quick troubleshooting response.

Ms. Kulow suggested that towns could go out to bid regionally or as a County. She stated that going out to bid as a County would look very attractive to companies. She stated that she had been contacted by companies looking to expand their businesses in Maine. These companies could do maintenance as well as monitor the needs in terms of what kinds of software and hardware is needed. It would also professionalize the services the towns are receiving. The County could handle the bidding process for that.

Administrator Hart asked if most towns have outsourced IT help. Several meeting attendees nodded or answered yes.

Mr. Sisk commented that he would not be an advocate of having County staff assigned to do IT stuff for the town but rather having a contract with a company to provide reasonably priced services to the towns. There needs to be quality of service with reasonable response times and predictable billing.

A meeting attendee commented that as information technology changes over time, if a town is working with one individual for their technology needs, the knowledge can become stale. Having a contract with a business means you have a standard to hold the business to.

Commissioner Beebe-Center stated that Jeff Lake is good at understanding the business, IT language and specifications, and helping with writing the contracts to make sure the County gets what it needs.

ANIMAL CONTROL

A meeting attendee asked Sheriff Dennison if the Sheriff's Office gets a lot of animal control calls.

Sheriff Dennison replied that the Sheriff's Office does not do animal control. Animal control calls do not go through dispatch.

Mr. Falla stated now is the time to look at animal control because Kathy Virgie is going to be done in a couple months. He stated that Ms. Virgie has said that she has someone who might be interested in taking it over. He stated that it might be a better idea to have it done at the County level so that it is the same in every town, rather than have a different set up in each town like it is now.

Commission Anne Beebe-Center asked if every town has its own approach, rules and costs for animal control.

Ms. Kulow stated that most animal control officers work for more than one town.

Mr. Falla asked if other counties handle animal control.

Ms. Kulow stated that towns usually have local agreements with each other instead.

Mr. Sisk commented that it would be interesting to see what towns are all paying for animal control and see what they are getting for the money they have budgeted. It may not be cheaper in the long run for the County to hire several ACO's full time to cover the entire County. It may be more professional, but maybe not.

Commissioner Beebe-Center asked if a committee should be put together.

Administrator Hart commented that during his time in Union, animal control evolved. He stated that it would be worth looking at centralizing it. To cover the whole County would probably require five or six Animal Control Officers and two or three vehicles. It may also work out better to organize the towns into regional zones with agreements for animal control.

Commissioner Beebe-Center commented that there may need to be two or three inter-local agreements to make sure response time is better. She asked for volunteers to be on a committee. John Falla, Jeff Northgraves, Bob Peabody, and Ray Sisk volunteered. Administrator Hart will coordinate the meetings, which will take place in the Commission Hearing Room.

Mr. Staples commented that he has had problems with animals needing help and the town has to pay for their care because either the owner could not be identified, or the owner could not pay the expenses.

Mr. Sisk stated that there is also a law enforcement element to Animal Control.

Administrator Hart commented that Animal Control Officers have to be certified, and therefore trained if they are not already.

Commissioner Moody commented that there are standards set by the State now for how you shelter the animals after you pick them up.

Mr. Falla stated that he would like Ms. Virgie to come in to talk about what she does as an ACO.

Mr. Peabody asked if anyone else uses Maynard Stanley. Someone thought that Owls Head does.

BUILDING CODES

Mr. Chapman suggested that uniform building codes might be something to consider. He stated that while some towns may not be able to afford to have someone on staff to do that, recent legislation has mandated that all towns do this. Someone qualified has to be the one to do it. Towns can contract someone to do it as long as that person is recognized by the State as qualified. A town's Code Enforcement Officer may be the one to do it if trained by the State.

Mr. Northgraves commented that the biggest problem is getting the CEO's trained to do it.

FISCAL YEAR

Administrator Hart stated that he wanted to mention the possible change that the County may make to a fiscal year. The Jail budget is required to change to fiscal. Since the County is currently on a calendar year, there will now be two sets of books. He stated that he wanted to hear the opinions/thoughts of those attending the meeting. County uses Tax Anticipation Notes (TAN's) to cover the County until the tax bills from the towns are due. The Commission is leaning towards doing a 6 month budget and then 12 month budget to get on a fiscal year, rather than doing an 18 month budget. Statute requires towns to pay for that 6 month transitional budget. Towns can either pay it up front when the taxes are due in November, or pay it over five years in increments. The County would do a TAN to cover the six month transitional budget and then by February of the transitional year, towns have to notify the County how they want to pay it. This will be a cost for the towns but would prevent the County from incurring interest. It is too soon to know what the actual costs would be. The County would try to have a barebones budget for each department for those six months. Per statute, County can make the change without permission from the towns, but the County is not planning to do it this way. He asked what the town representatives had to say about the subject. Other counties are also making this change since their jails have also gone to a fiscal year and it makes sense to have all accounts on the same budget year. Knox County is only in the initial stages of planning.

Commissioner Beebe-Center commented that the financial software that the County uses will have to be upgraded by purchasing additional programming to be able to handle two sets of books of the County does not completely change over to a fiscal year.

Mr. Northgraves stated that South Thomaston is on a calendar year and would prefer to make the change at the same time as the County, but the Selectmen are obliged to make sure that the citizens support the change. The hope would be to educate the public so that they understand what is happening and support it. If enough prep work is not done in advance, it may get shot down.

Mr. Staples stated that Cushing is also on a calendar year and had toyed with the idea of changing to a fiscal year a few years ago. Cushing has a lot of seasonal employees and changing the tax bill due-date time might hurt the people who live there. He asked if the towns on a calendar year have to change if the county does.

Commissioner Beebe-Center replied that the towns would not be required to change to a fiscal year.

Mr. Northgraves stated that the towns will not have to change when they bill the residents for taxes. He added that the taxes to pay for the transitional County budget can be spread out over five years.

Mr. Chapman commented that this would be good as long as it eliminates the need for the TAN after the first year.

Mr. Peabody stated that there would need to be some analysis done to show what it will mean for each town if the County changes to a fiscal year.

Commissioner Beebe-Center stated that the next step will be for the County to run the figures and get the information to towns so that they can figure out what the impact will be on themselves.

Mr. Chapman commented that there are five towns that have shelter inter-local agreements.

SOLID WASTE

Commissioner Beebe-Center asked for volunteers to be on a solid waste committee. Bob Peabody, Dorothy Meriwether, Rosemary Kulow, and Elmer Savage volunteered. Administrator Hart will coordinate the meetings, which will take place in the Commission Hearing Room. He will not be expected to attend but will just help facilitate.

IV. Action List

Commissioner Beebe-Center stated that she wanted to go over the list of topics discussed that would need more research or discussion to make sure that she had not missed anything. She read through the list:

- Solid waste
- Animal control
- Economic development
- General assistance
- Road engineer
- Creating a more complete inventory of municipal equipment
- Maintenance of equipment
- Mandated training and possibly hosting at County level
- IT support/consistency throughout the county

Commission Anne Beebe-Center stated that the next meeting should be scheduled. She asked the group what time of day would be better. **The group settled on 2:30 p.m. The date will be either August 6th (a Thursday) or the 13th. Everyone was asked to look at their schedules and see which day is better.**

Administrator Hart commented that he wanted to mention space needs. He stated that he had met with the three departments (Sheriff's Patrol, Emergency Management Agency, and Dispatch), Commissioner Parent, QA13 and Lichtman Associates, and the end users. The purpose of the meeting was to looking to cut back on space estimates that QA13 and Lichtman Associates had come up with. The County will now need to do site determination survey's for properties. At this point the County is just looking at moving Communications/Dispatch and EMA from their current locations. The Sheriff's Department will stay where it is.

Mr. Northgraves commented that the Knox County Regional Airport going through final design for its terminal. The design will go before the County Commission soon. The Airport Public Advisory Committee (APAC) has representation from all the towns. Their meetings are held on Monday evenings. The Airport will probably have to go out to bond in November. He stated that he was hoping that the terminal may be constructed in the next year or two and that there is still some stimulus money available.

V. Adjourn

- A motion was made by Commissioner Roger Moody to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candice Richards

The Knox County Commission approved these minutes at their regular meeting held on July 14, 2009.

Anne H. Beebe-Center, Chair – Commissioner District #1

Richard L. Parent, Jr. – Commissioner District #2

Roger A. Moody – Commissioner District #3